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PP RUEHIK
DE RUEHAA #0157 0331146
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
P 021146Z FEB 10
FM AMEMBASSY ASHGABAT
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 4175
INFO RUCPDOC/DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHDC PRIORITY
RUCNCLS/ALL SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIA COLLECTIVE
RUCNCIS/CIS COLLECTIVE
RUCNMEM/EU MEMBER STATES COLLECTIVE
RUEHAK/AMEMBASSY ANKARA 6204
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 3883
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 3742
RUEHIT/AMCONSUL ISTANBUL 4448
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 1455
RHMCSSU/CDR USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL
RUEHVEN/USMISSION USOSCE 4358
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC

UNCLAS ASHGABAT 000157

SENSITIVE

SIPDIS

STATE FOR SCA/CEN; INL/AAE BUHLER

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [ETRD](#) [SNAR](#) [AORC](#) [PGOV](#) [XG](#) [XT](#) [TX](#)

SUBJECT: TURKMEN POLICE, CUSTOMS OFFICERS VISIT LONDON

¶1. (U) Sensitive but unclassified. Not for public Internet.

¶2. (SBU) SUMMARY: An INL-funded familiarization trip for Turkmen Customs and Police officers to the UK took place from January 26-30, yielding positive results. While in London, the participants met with MP Viscount Waverly of the House of Lords, Sue Inwood of the Metropolitan Police Drug Directorate, as well as liaison officers from Revenue and Customs Department. The participants were introduced to British police and customs strategies and ongoing activities. It also gave them an opportunity to learn about possible means of cooperation between the two countries' law enforcement agencies. None of the Turkmen delegates had had prior exposure to the issues raised by the officials from Scotland Yard or the British Customs and Revenue Department, whose officials made factual presentations. The non-governmental organization 'Drugscope' described its assistance to local police and various crime-fighting authorities. END SUMMARY.

¶3. (SBU) On December 27, the two Turkmen delegates, both graduates of Post's INL-funded English Language Training (ELT) program, began a four-day study tour to the UK. In their first meeting, they met with MP Lord Waverly, who expressed a keen interest in promoting exchanges between Turkmen and British Law Enforcement agencies. Lord Waverly also encouraged the guests to suggest other possible means of cooperation and partnership between the two countries. The Turkmen officials opined that 'shadow training' by British colleagues from both Police and Customs would be useful Turkmen policemen and Customs inspectors.

¶4. (SBU) Also on December 27, the participants met with Sue Inwood, Detective Chief Inspector with the Metropolitan Police (MPS) Drug Directorate, who presented the UK's Drug Enforcement strategy for 2010. The Turkmen police officer, who explained that his department non-drug related issues, underscored that Turkmen government has delegated all illegal drug matters to State Counter-Narcotics Service (SCNS). Both participants stressed that the experiences relayed by the Drugs Directorate Chief was useful to them, particularly in the way that the work was organized and in the crime investigation methods.

¶15. (SBU) On December 28, Chief Executive Martin Barnes of the NGO 'Drugscope' briefed Turkmen visitors on his organization's joint activities with UK law enforcement agencies, their role in analyzing the scope, types and social impact of drug abuse. The Turkmen officials were impressed with the government's collaboration with NGOs, and noting the enhanced assistance and results in dealing with drug addicts and its effects.

¶16. (SBU) On December 29, British Customs and Revenue Liaison officers briefed the Turkmen on the ongoing structural changes and the merger between the Revenue and Customs departments and spoke about the work of the UK Border Agency. They have also brought some statistics from Revenue and Customs work.

¶17. (SBU) COMMENT: The content of the UK briefings emphasized the work of UK counter-narcotics entities. It was therefore unfortunate that the participant selected from the Turkmen counter-narcotics agency (SCNS) was not allowed to travel (apparently due to her status as an unmarried female). Beyond the substantive value of the trip to the Turkmen officials, both were highly impressed with London's history and architecture, and commented repeatedly on the politeness of everyone they encountered. END COMMENT.

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